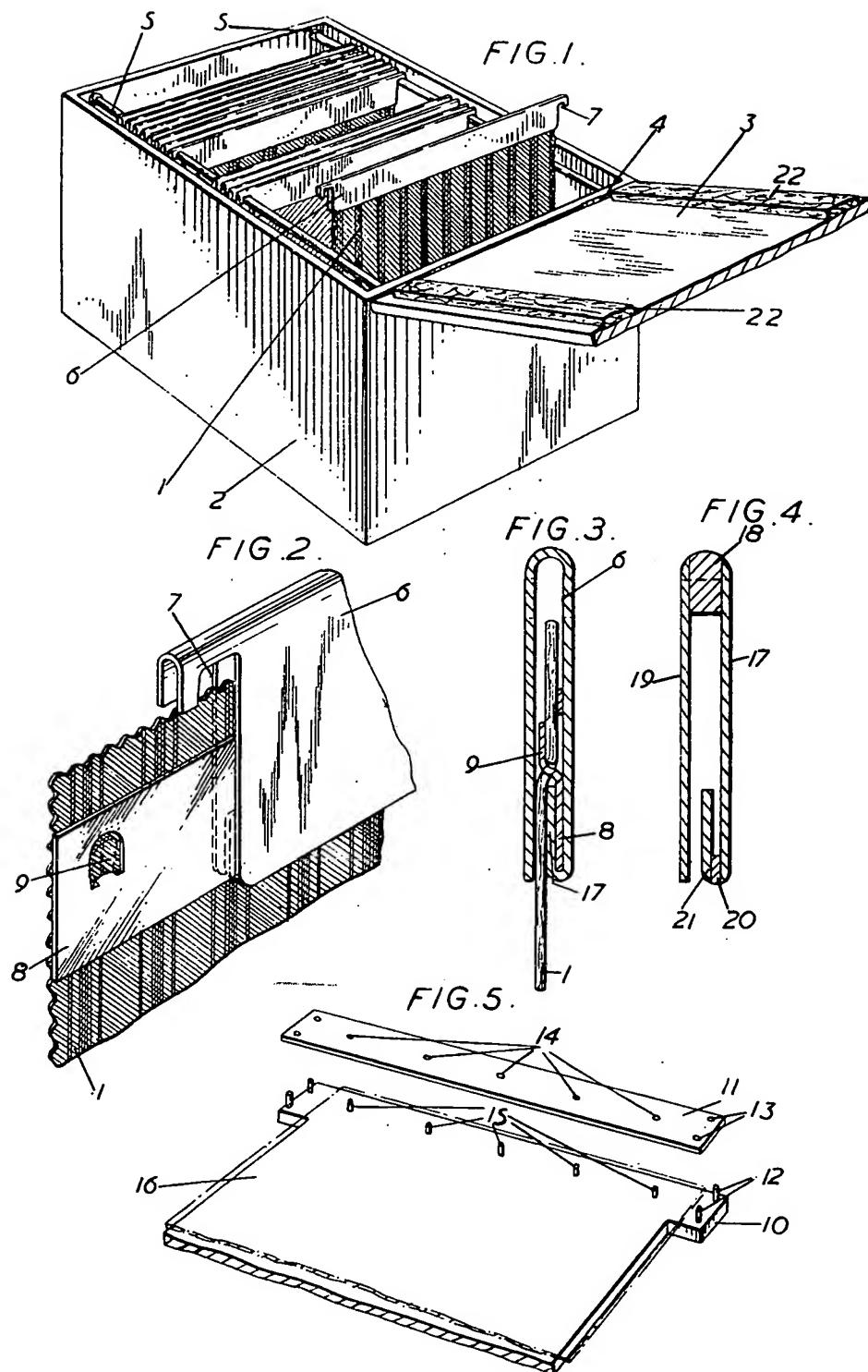


11/16
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757,030 COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

1 SHEET

This drawing is a reproduction of
the Original on a reduced scale.



PATENT SPECIFICATION

757,030

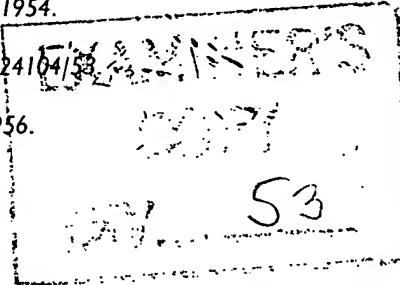


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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

CL. 129

Improvements in Mounting or Filing Means for Flat Objects.

I, FRANK DAVID ATTENBOROUGH, a British Subject of Briar Gate, Melton Road, Edwalton, Nottingham, do hereby declare the invention for which I pray that a patent may be granted 5 to me and the method by which it is to be performed to be particularly described in and by the following statement:

This invention relates to improvements in means for mounting or filing flat objects and 10 is particularly concerned with improved means for supporting flat objects in a releasable manner such that the objects may be removed from their support means for display purposes and furthermore the means by which the 15 objects are supported may be removed therefrom so that the object is entirely independent of any support or other means.

The invention is particularly applicable to objects which are non-rigid that is to say which 20 have no means for maintaining them in a specific outline. More particularly the invention is concerned with fabric or paper objects and it is one specific object of the invention to provide an improved method for supporting 25 a flat object such as a fabric or paper in releasable manner such that the fabric or paper may be stored in a satisfactory condition and capable of ready removal from the support means for display purposes.

30 One application of the invention is to travellers and salesmen of fabric such as for example mens suiting or womens dresses and also travellers and salesmen of wallpaper.

It will be appreciated that numerous patterns 35 of fabric are produced and in order that a manufacturer say of mens suiting may choose which fabric he wishes to purchase he has to select from numerous samples. Hitherto it has been the practice either to submit small 40 squares of fabric in the order of 2" to 3" square or for the manufacturer of the fabric to make up a pattern book in which the patterns of the fabric are in the region of 6" to 12" square but with one edge of the fabric 45 securely fastened so that each pattern of the fabric forms a leaf of a book. The former of

these two ways is not wholly satisfactory in that many repetitive patterns are larger than 2" to 3" square over the fabric. Thus a manufacturer is unable to appreciate the entire 50 pattern.

The latter of the two ways is also not wholly satisfactory in the sense that it is necessary each time new patterns are created to produce amendment books and as manufacture of old 55 patterns ceases it is necessary to inform travellers and salesmen accordingly that these patterns are no longer available. Thus in a comparatively short period of time it is possible that a pattern book is out of date.

One object of the present invention is to minimise or overcome in part the aforementioned difficulties.

With the above and other objects in view the present invention provides apparatus for removably supporting a plurality of flat members comprising substantially rigid elements in the form of flat strips for attaching to said flat members, rigid members substantially U-shaped in cross section to which said elements may be releasably secured between the limbs of the U and means for supporting said rigid members so that the flat members depend therefrom. Conveniently the rigid member is supported from at least two locations and may be supported from two rails or the like, said members having an indentation co-operating with the said rails. Conveniently the rigid member extends beyond the width of the flat member so that the flat member is located between the two rails in its supported position. The elements may either be permanently secured or releasably secured to the flat members as desired. More specifically a flat strip of material such as for example plastic material is attached to the flat member by suitable means for example by providing tongues or the like on the strip which extends through slots formed in the flat member or by stapling the flat member to the strip. The strip is then inserted within a rigid element which may conveniently be of general U-shape 60 65 70 75 80 85 90

[Price 3s. Od.]

with one end of the limb of the 'U' turned within the confines of the member. The flat strip may thus be slid into the said member and supported in the 'U' formed by the 5 turned in end of one of the limbs.

Reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of apparatus according to the present invention, 10 Figure 2 is a perspective detailed view of apparatus according to the present invention, Figure 3 is a cross sectional view of an apparatus element illustrated in Figure 2, 15 Figure 4 is an alternative construction for the rigid member, Figure 5 illustrates further apparatus for use with the present invention. 20 In Figure 1 a rectangular container 2 has a lid 3 connected thereto by hinges 4 along one of the top edges of the container. Parallel rails 5 are supported from opposite ends of the container 2 above its bottom. Substantially 25 rigid members 6 which may be of suitable plastic material are provided at their ends with support extensions having notches or indentations 7 for engaging with rails 5 such that the rails support the members 6 in releasable 30 manner. Members 6 are of a general 'U' shape and provided with one limb 17 turned inwardly within the confines of the 'U' so as to form another 'U' configuration as seen most clearly in Figures 3 and 4. The rigid 35 member 6 in Figure 3 is moulded from one strip of plastic material whereas the rigid member in Figure 4 is built up in laminated form from a plurality of elements comprising outer members 17 and 19, a longitudinal spacing member 18 and a smaller spacing member 20 and a further member 21 such that members 20 and 21 form a second 'U' within the 'U' formed in the members 17, 18 and 19. The 40 construction according to Figure 4 may also be made of plastic or metallic material. Flat objects 1 to be supported are secured to a substantially rigid element in the form of a flat strip 8 which has tongues 9 for extending through slots formed in the flat object 1; a 45 rigid member 6 may then be secured to the flat objects 1 by sliding the strips 8 within the second 'U' of the rigid member 6. Apparatus for preparing the flat objects 1 is illustrated in Figure 5 which provides a cutting or pinking former. A length of material 16 is placed on the former 10 and a securing and marking strip 11 which is provided with a plurality of holes 14, and locating holes 13 for co-operating with pegs 12 mounted on the former 10. Inden- 50 tations or apertures 15 are provided in the former 10 corresponding in spacing to the holes 14 such that when the strip 11 is placed on the pegs 12 and over the fabric 16 by means of a knife or other piercing tool slots may be 55 formed in the fabric at pre-determined spacing 60 65

corresponding to the spacing of tongues in the flat strips 8. The lengths of fabric 16 may be cut or pinned to substantially the same shape.

It will be appreciated that the invention provides a ready method of supporting flat objects in releasable manner and each of the flat objects may be secured to a rigid member in releasable manner. The container 2 may be provided with a carrying handle and/or a lock and key for securing the lid and ensuring that unauthorized persons cannot inspect the objects supported within. A traveller or salesman of a fabric is thus able to carry up-to-date reasonably sized samples and can readily replace samples which are no longer in manufacture and insert new samples. 70 75 80

Furthermore a traveller can carry several samples of the same pattern and can easily leave with a prospective customer a sample.

The lid 3 is desirably provided with holding-down parts 22 for the members 6 on the rails 5 when the lid is shut. 85

What I claim is:

1. Apparatus for removably supporting a plurality of flat members comprising substantially rigid elements in the form of flat strips for attaching to said flat members, rigid members substantially U-shaped in cross section to which said elements may be releasably secured between the limbs of the U and means for supporting said rigid members so that the flat members depend therefrom. 90 95

2. Apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the elements are releasably attached to the flat members. 100

3. Apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein said rigid members extend beyond the width of the flat members and are supported from said extensions.

4. Apparatus according to claim 3 wherein the extensions to the rigid member are provided with a cut-out for co-operating with supporting members. 105

5. Apparatus according to any of the claims 1 to 4 wherein the substantially rigid elements 110 are of plastic material.

6. Apparatus according to any of the claims 2 to 5 wherein the substantially rigid elements are provided with tongues for extending through apertures formed in the flat members 115 for releasably securing the elements thereto.

7. A device for supporting sheet material such for example as a fabric sample or samples, comprising a bar-like element having front and back outer walls defining an open-bottomed space between them and having notched support extensions of one or both walls projecting from the ends, and an upstanding inner wall on one such outer wall defining an open-topped space between itself and that outer 120 wall for the endwise insertion of a strip to which said sheet material is attached. 125

8. A container, containing spaced parallel support rails above its bottom, and a plurality of devices according to Claim 7 removably 130

mounted on said rails by the notched support extensions.

9. Apparatus, for reasonably securing to and supporting flat members, substantially as

described and illustrated herein with reference 5
to the accompanying drawings.

ERIC POTTER & CLARKSON,
Chartered Patent Agents.

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

Improvements in Mounting or Filing Means for Flat Objects.

I, FRANK DAVID ATTENBOROUGH, a British Subject of Briar Gate, Melton Road, Edwalton, Nottingham, do hereby declare this invention 10 to be described in the following statement:—

This invention is concerned with a means for the supporting of flat members perpendicularly in assembled order, but capable of rapid selective withdrawal and replacement, being 15 applicable interalia to the storage of traveller's samples of fabrics, patterns, plastic sheets, pictures, wallpapers or the like. The principal uses of the invention, as at present foreseen, are in the storage and transport of samples of 20 fabrics and the like, either in a fixed container such as a cabinet drawer, or in a portable container such as a traveller's case.

The invention provides, for use in a container having parallel supporting edges at its 25 sides, one or more cross members shaped at the ends to drop on to and be located endwise by such supporting edges, and means on such cross bar for receiving and supporting the re-inforced edge of a piece of fabric, the fabric 30 hanging loose from the cross bar and that bar being slidable backwards and forwards along said supporting edges.

The reinforcement for the fabric will be such 35 as to hold that edge of the fabric distended, so as to hang freely without creases or folds, and it will usually comprise a strip of light-weight material to slide endwise into an open-topped slot or trough concealed within the cross-bar.

40 According to another feature of the invention, the cross-bar comprises depending front and back outer walls defining an open-bottomed space between them and having notched extensions projecting from the ends, 45 an upstanding inner wall on one such outer wall defining an open-topped space between itself and that outer wall, into which space the fabric-holding strip may be slid endwise, and said inner wall is made shorter than the outer 50 walls so as to leave full width spaces at the ends of the cross-bar to facilitate the introduction of the fabric and its holding strip.

Usually, the fabric-holding strip will be of 55 plastic material, and in any event, it may be attached to the fabric by being stapled thereto or there may be hook-shaped or like parts pressed out of the strip, on which the fabric will hang, or other connecting means may be adopted; such parts may be of a springing 60 nature, to press lightly against one of the walls of the cross-bar and so imprison the fabric

which hangs on them.

The cross-bar may be made by folding sheet material, or as an integral moulding or from an extruded length, or it may be made up in a laminated form with intermediate spacing strips where necessary. Also, the means for locating the cross-bar axially on the supporting edges may comprise notches cut in the under face of lugs extending from the ends of the bar, at the top. Such notches may be of square form, or otherwise, and may have spring clips to cause them to "snap" onto and off the supporting edges. Any suitable printed or displayed matter can be carried by the cross-bar, usually on its front face, and there may be means for holding removable interchangeable identification tabs or the like related to the various patterns. Alternatively, or in addition, there may be one or more apertures in the cross-bar through which a portion of the fabric can be viewed without necessitating the separation of the cross-bars on their supports. 65 70 75 80

In one particular example of the invention a cross-bar is made by folding a sheet or strip of plastic material and has two wide parallel webs merging together in a curve along one longitudinal edge so as to have a space between them, and one of these webs has a shorter web turned up into said space, merging into its lower edge by a similar curve. In the ends of the bar a deep notch is cut out extending from the lower edge and leaving a projecting tongue at the upper edge. A further notch is cut from the lower edge of each such tongue, giving it a hook-like formation. Such notches are adapted to receive horizontal supporting rails in a cabinet or the like, so that whilst the bars may be moved to and fro along the rails, they are located against endwise movement. 85 90 95 100

There is also provided a strip of a transparent plastic material, to the upper longitudinal edge of which is stapled a fabric sample, and the strip and sample are then passed between the said wider webs with the lower edge of said strip dropped into the space between the said shorter web and its attached wider web. The length of the bar, between the said end notches, is slightly greater than the width of the specimen so that the supporting means is fully concealed when in place. 105 110

Preferably, the ends of the inner narrower web are cut away so as to leave end spaces between the wider webs and facilitate the entrance of the strip and sample between them. 115

In another example instead of the cross-bar

being of one-piece construction, it is built up from laminations. There is a rectangular-sectioned rod-like member, to the sides of which are secured two wide plates, one of such 5 plates having attached to its inner face first a narrow strip or spacer and then a somewhat wider strip, these last being shorter than the outer plates so as to leave spaces at the ends. The total cross section of the assembly is substantially the same as that of the first example.

10 The said rod-like member and projecting parts of the outer webs covering the rod-like member, are notched in the underface to rest

on supporting rails, for example in a traveller's case, and be located endwise.

15 In a modification of the invention, instead of the pattern being stapled to the transparent or other strip, portions of that strip are pressed out and bent into a hook formation. These formations may be passed through slits or holes in the pattern so that the pattern hangs on the strip at the hooks. If the hooks bear against the said webs, the fabric is prevented from leaving them.

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ERIC POTTER & CLARKSON,
Chartered Patent Agents.

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